

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES REGULATORY BOARD**

In the Matter of  
Katrina M. Hoppe, EMT-B  
Certificate Number: 937578

**FINDINGS OF FACT,  
CONCLUSIONS,  
AND FINAL ORDER**

On January 23, 2009, the Complaint Review Panel ("Panel") of the Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board ("Board") initiated the above-entitled proceeding against Katrina M. Hoppe, EMT-B ("Respondent"), by service of a Notice of Petition and Petition to Suspend Certification.

The matter came on for consideration by the Board pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 144E.28, subdivision 5(b) (2008), at a regularly scheduled meeting on March 19, 2009, convened in Conference Room A (fourth floor), University Park Plaza, 2829 University Avenue S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414.

The following Board members were present: James Rieber, Chair; Lisa Consie; Laurie Hill; Robert Jensen; Paul Satterlee, M.D.; Marlys Tanner; and Mari Thomas, M.D. Karen B. Andrews, Assistant Attorney General, appeared and presented oral argument on behalf of the Panel. Respondent did not appear at the meeting. Nathan W. Hart, Assistant Attorney General, was present as legal advisor to the Board. Board member Kathleen Haney abstained and did not vote in the matter. As members of the Panel, Dawn Bidwell, Brenda Brown, Paula Fink Kochen, Paul Stelter, and Kevin Miller did not participate in deliberations or vote in the matter.

Based on the record and the proceedings herein, the Board makes the following:

## FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On October 26, 2007, Respondent met with the Panel via telephone conference to discuss allegations contained in a Notice of Conference dated October 10, 2007, including that the Minnesota Department of Human Service (“DHS”) determined Respondent had neglected her children on two occasions while suffering from untreated depression. On December 5, 2007, the Panel referred Respondent to the Health Professionals Services Program (“HPSP”) for an evaluation and potential monitoring. HPSP determined that monitoring was warranted based on Respondent’s diagnoses of Bipolar Disorder and Attention Deficit Disorder (“ADD”). On January 30, 2008, HPSP discharged Respondent for noncooperation after she failed to return her enrollment materials by the extended due date and Respondent’s case was referred to the Board.

2. On June 18, 2008, Respondent met with the Panel to discuss her psychiatric disorders, current treatment, plans for working as an EMT-B, and discharge from HPSP for failure to sign a Participation Agreement. On June 26, 2008, the Board referred Respondent back to HPSP for monitoring.

3. On July 16, 2008, Respondent contacted the HPSP pursuant to the Board’s referral.

4. On July 17, 2008, Respondent completed a second intake interview with HPSP. Respondent acknowledged being diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder and ADD in 2000. She denied current symptoms. Respondent stated that after the birth of her second child in 2000, she was hospitalized at least three times while going through medication changes. Respondent stopped seeing her psychiatrist in 2003 or 2004 and did well off her medication until mid-summer 2005, when she began feeling “uneven” during another pregnancy and sought help. Around this same time, DHS again determined that Respondent was neglecting her children.

Respondent stated she again stopped her medication. In 2006, after the birth of another child, Respondent again sought psychiatric help and resumed medication. In September 2007, DHS determined once again that Respondent's home was unsatisfactory and removed the children. Respondent stated her cycles usually start out manic and then move into depression or a "mixed" state. Respondent also acknowledged a history of chronic pain due to Rheumatoid Arthritis.

5. On August 13, 2008, HPSP received Respondent's signed enrollment form and release-of-information authorizations. Based on a review of Respondent's medical records, HPSP determined that monitoring of Respondent for 12 months was appropriate based on her psychiatric conditions.

6. On November 7, 2008, HPSP received Respondent's signed Participation Agreement. Respondent's Monitoring Plan required that she obtain a mental health therapist and sign a release-of-information authorization so HPSP could obtain records from the therapist. Respondent failed to respond to HPSP's repeated requests for compliance with these requirements.

7. On January 5, 2009, HPSP discharged Respondent for noncompliance and referred her case to the Board.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board makes the following:

### **CONCLUSIONS**

1. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Minnesota Statutes sections 144E.28 and 144E.30 (2008).

2. Respondent was given timely and proper notice of the March 19, 2009 hearing before the Board and of her right under Minnesota Statutes section 144E.28, subdivision 5(b), to

request a contested case hearing to be conducted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes chapter 14.

3. The Panel has complied with all relevant substantive and procedural requirements of statute and rule.

4. The Panel has proven by a preponderance of the evidence that Respondent has violated Minnesota Statutes section 144E.28, subdivision 5(a)(4), because she “is actually or potentially unable to provide emergency medical services with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, use of alcohol, drugs, chemicals, or any other material, or as a result of any mental or physical condition.”

5. As a result of the violation set forth above and Respondent’s failure to request a contested case hearing within 30 days of receipt of notice of her right to do so or at any time, the Board has the authority without further proceedings to take disciplinary action against Respondent’s EMT-B certification. *See* Minn. Stat. §§ 144E.28, subds. 4 and 5 (2008).

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions, the Board issues the following:

### **ORDER**

1. Respondent’s EMT-B certificate is **SUSPENDED**, effective immediately. At no time subsequent to the date of this Order shall Respondent engage in any act in Minnesota which constitutes practice as an EMT-B as defined in Minnesota Statutes sections 144E.001, nor shall she in any manner represent or hold herself out as being authorized to so practice.

2. Not later than 10 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall surrender and cause the Board to receive her current EMT-B certificate card.

3. Respondent may apply to the Board for reinstatement of her certification as an EMT-B not earlier than 12 months from the date of this Order. Any such application shall be

accompanied by evidence of compliance with all recommendations of Respondent's psychiatrist and compliance with all applicable continuing education or training requirements under Minnesota Statutes section 144E.28, subdivisions 7 and 8 (2008).

4. Respondent shall appear before the Panel to review any application for reinstatement submitted pursuant to paragraph 3, above. The burden of proof shall be on Respondent to demonstrate that she is able to provide emergency medical services in a fit and competent manner without risk of harm to the public. The Board reserves the right to approve an application for reinstatement only upon the imposition of conditions and limitations which the Board deems necessary to ensure public protection.

5. This Order is a public document.

The foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Order constitute the Decision of the Board in this matter.

Dated: 4-2, 2009

MINNESOTA EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
SERVICES REGULATORY BOARD

By: 

JAMES RIEBER, CHAIR

AG: #2373281-v1